

FY22 CM Pool Budget Amendment #1

Essential Child Care at City Recreation Centers

SD23: Economic Opportunity & Affordability, Health & Environment, Culture & Lifelong Learning

Providing \$1.2 Million for Added Child Care Capacity at City Recreation Centers

The Parks & Recreation Department's Out of School Time provides essential elementary aged childcare at city recreation centers, offering academic, social, and physical benefits in a safe and supportive environment.

This year's request would serve families across six recreation centers for Eastern Crescent communities, which are historically unserved when it comes to after-school childcare. **For every \$100,000 in funding, the child-care program can serve 50 students per day.**

Funding after-school programs will provide some relief to Austin families as students go back to school and eliminate the uncertainty surrounding the challenges in finding affordable and high-quality child-care. As younger populations can get vaccinated rec centers will be able to ramp-up number of students they serve by Spring 2022 and be back at full capacity by Fall 2022. \$300,000 of

the amount requested would go directly to purchasing of 6 vans, which would create a savings after the first three years of ownership in comparison to leasing. The purchasing of the vans would reduce travel time for pick-ups at elementary schools. This would have a positive impact as rec centers can develop after-school programs and pick-up times for middle and high school students which are currently not served.

Funding for all 4 Recreation Centers	
	FY22 Funding
Increased capacity at 4 Recreation Center = 450 additional children served	\$900,000 Ongoing Funds
Purchasing of 6 vans	\$300,000 Certificates of Obligation
Total	\$1.2M

Benefits for Students, Families & Schools

- PARD staff are actively collaborating with Austin ISD and other school districts to use recreation centers as safe spaces for child-care and virtual learning. With the centers serving as additional educational locations for students, families would be supported with after-school homework help and child-care as all students will be back in-person starting this Fall.
- PARD Inclusion Unit- Some staff are specifically trained in Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) to help students with special/behavioral needs. This is particularly crucial for addressing the needs of students whose social and emotional learning has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the learning loss that students have experienced as the STAAR results have shown, programs would have a student to staff ratio of 10:2. This would allow for more individualized and comprehensive help to students who need it the most.

PARD Recreation Centers to Receive Added Child Care Capacity	District
Delores Duffie Rec Center	1
Dove Springs Rec Center	2
Gus Garcia Rec Center	4
Turner Roberts Rec Center	1

*Prioritized by area with greatest need